

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) A fuel injector comprising:

a housing;

a valve-seat surface;

a valve needle;

a valve-closure member situated in the housing and cooperating with the valve-seat surface to form a sealing seat;

one of a piezoelectric and magnetostrictive actuator which actuates the valve-closure member; and

an hydraulic coupler having a downstream recess in which one end of the valve needle is engaged in a pivotable manner.

8. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 7, wherein the recess has a conical shape.

9. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 7, wherein the recess widens in a discharge direction.

10. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 7, wherein an inflow-side end of the valve needle has a rounded region.

11. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 10, wherein the rounded region is in a shape of one of a cap and a hemisphere.

12. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 10, wherein the rounded region rests in the recess by way of a circular contact line.

13. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 7, wherein the fuel injector is for a fuel-injection system of an internal combustion engine.